Lillian & Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press ROUTE 8, FREDERICK, MD. 21701
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Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist
The National Archives,
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

Your letter of July 21 has just reached me. In it you say with surprising casualness that "We have found that at some time in the past the knot in President Kennedy's necktie was untied." No more.

No sorrow, nor regrets, no apologies, not even the slighest expression of concern.

And what is most significant, no statement that you have made even the most perfunctory investigation or what it discloses. The most reasonable interpretation of your lack of concern is that you have not made and do not plan any investigation.

I learned of the fact, not your attitude, when I appeared at the Archives yesterday to see what you had promised me in writing and in court only to find that it no longer exists.

There is no complaint about the quality of the photographs taken. They are up to the usually high professional standards of your photographers. Nor of your clerk, who was, as usual, polite and considerate.

By now you should have come to understand me and, I would hope, the seriousness of my intent and my work, despite the misrepresentation of it on your behalf in court records. So, with all the seriousness I can, I ask you if you intend to conduct an investigation and, if you do, when I can expect to know its results. I look forward to hearing from you about this in something less than your customery 60 days plus.

As a consequence of this, shall I call it an unfortunate accident? some of the pictures taken are meaningless. In one case, if the picture was taken, it is not clearly identified and seems to be other than what I asked for. I have described what I would like to see to your staff. If you will please let me know when I may expect to be able to make that examination, I would appreciate it. If there is any question, as I think there should not be from my correspondence, please phone me yourself and be satisfied. You should realize that the requests I made are not harrassing, not excessive, and are the mimimum for any such study as I have undertaken. And when you consider, as I think you should, what the enormous cost to me of your forcing me to go to court on this was -and how it is not within your capability to make any kind of redress for it -and then compare this with the modest nature or my request, you should, if at this very late date, get some undertsanding that my purposes are only those as transparent as I represent them to be, serious scholarship that you have now permitted to become impossible.

I await your explanations with as much anxiety as you should be able to anticipate.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg